

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03335 011017Z

17/64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-10 /078 W

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R 301547Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8602

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 3335

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING TAG INSTRUCTIONS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF JOINT U.S.-GREEK COMMUNIQUE ON U.S BASES

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOINT U.S.-GREEK COMMUNIQUE REGARDING CONCLUSION OF PHASE TWO OF NEGOTIATIONS ON STATUS U.S. MILITARY BASES IN GREECE WAS MADE AT 1900 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 29. BOTH RADIO AND TV CARRIED TEXT OF COMMNIQUE WITHOUT COMMENTARY.

2. ALTHOUGH MOST ATHENS GREEK-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS DID NOT PUBLISH APRIL 30 DUE TO JOURNALISTS STRIKE (ATHENS 3297), THREE PAPERS (ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS AND COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS AND AVGHI) DID APPEAR. ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS CARRIED REPORT AS LEAD STORY UNDER HEADLINE " TWO AMERICAN BASES ABOLISHED AT ELEFSIS AND HELLENIKON." RIZOSPASTIS (COMMUNIST PARTY EXTERIOR) CARRIED REPORT AS SUBSIDIARY ITEM WITHIN BROADER BACK PAGE STORY RELATING TO PRESIDENT FORD'S EXPECTATION OF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT BRUSSELS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03335 011017Z

3. AVGHI (COMMUNIST PARTY INTERIOR--EDA) REPORTS STORY AS FRONT

PAGE ITEM UNDER HEADLINE "FACILITIES AT ELEFSIS AND AIR BASE
AT HELLENIKON ABOLISHED." TWO ATHENS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS
AFFORDED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO STORY BUT THEY MERELY
PUBLISHED THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, COMMUNIQUE, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS03335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750153-0305
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaarg.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA COVERAGE OF JOINT U.S.-GREEK COMMUNIQUE ON U.S BASES
TAGS: MARR, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006